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E.O. 12356: NA
TAGS: EPET, PINS, ASEC, PTER, CO
SUBJECT: ELN SAYS IT WILL STOP ATTACKS ON CANON-LIMON
PIPELINE IF CONDITIONS ARE MET

REF: BOGOTA 1423

1. (U) SUMMARY. IN A LETTER TO PRESIDENT BARCO AND FRANCISCO CHONA, PRESIDENT OF ECOPETROL, THE EJERCITO DE LIBERACION NACIONAL (ELN) SAID IT WOULD TEMPORARILY STOP ATTACKS ON THE CANO-LIMON PIPELINE. THE LETTER CONTAINED SIX DEMANDS THAT HAVE TO BE MET FOR THE ATTACKS TO STOP. THE LETTER WAS SIGNED BY MANUEL PEREZ MARTINEZ AND NICOLAS RODRIGUES BAUTISTA, LEADERS OF THE ELN. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ON JUNE 1, DURING A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON NATURAL ENERGY RESOURCES, THE ELN SLIPPED A LETTER TO RODOLFO GONZALEZ GARCIA, THE GOC COMPTROLLER GENERAL, ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT BARCO AND FRANCISCO
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CHONA, PRESIDENT OF ECOPETROL. THE LETTER SAYS THAT THE ELN IS PREPARED TEMPORARILY TO STOP ATTACKS ON THE PIPELINE "WITHIN COLOMBIAN TERRITORY." THE ELN NOTED IT WAS TAKING THIS ACTION BECAUSE IT IS PREPARED TO

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200201334

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"DISCUSS THE BASIS FOR ITS ANTI-IMPERIALIST POLICY WITH THE COUNTRY" AND TO "NEGOTIATE THE TERMINATION OF CRUDE OIL EXTRACTION ACTIVITIES" WITH THE GOC AND ECOPETROL.

3. (U) IN EXCHANGE FOR AN END TO THE ATTACKS, THE ELN EXPECTS THE GOC AND ECOPETROL TO MEET THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- IMMEDIATE REDUCTION IN THE PRICE OF REFINED PRODUCTS FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND REDUCTION IN THE RATES CHARGED FOR PUBLIC SERVICES;
- OCCIDENTAL MUST BE MADE TO PAY THE 800 MILLION DOLLAR FINE THE CONTROLLER FEELS SHOULD BE LEVIED (SEE REFTTEL);
- ESTABLISH A "SOCIAL TAX" OF 1 DOLLAR PER BARREL OF OIL EXTRACTED BY MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS;
- ESTABLISH A SOVEREIGN PRICE FOR CRUDE;
- REVISE THE TERMS OF THE ASSOCIATION CONTRACT AND CONTRACTS FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES;
- TRANSFER OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY TO COLOMBIA, AND PRIMACY OF NATIONAL INTERESTS OVER FOREIGN INTERESTS.

4. (LOU) COMMENT: THE GOC HAS YET TO RESPOND TO THE ELN MESSAGE AND DEMANDS, BUT IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THAT ANY OF THE ELN DEMANDS WILL BE MET. PRESS REPORTS OVER THE PAST WEEK HAVE DISCUSSED SIGNIFICANT ELN LOSSES AT THE HANDS OF THE BEEFED-UP MILITARY FORCES IN ARAUCA. THE LETTER MAY BE A WAY OF COVERING ELN DIFFICULTIES IN MOUNTING PIPELINE ATTACKS IN THE FACE OF STEPPED-UP MILITARY ACTIVITY. BY LAYING LOW NOW, THE ELN MAY WELL

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BE RESTING UP FOR BROADER ATTACKS AT A LATER DATE WHEN THE MILITARY IS OCCUPIED ELSEWHERE. END COMMENT.
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